

2016

Summer Program Schedule

National Park Service

U.S. Department of the Interior

Cumberland Gap National Historical Park



Gap Cave

A two-hour adventure awaits as you explore Gap Cave with its majestic stalagmites, striking stalactites, and shimmering flowstone. Step into the music room and listen for the whispers of a Civil War soldier. Catch a glimpse of a little brown bat or a cave salamander.

Reservations are recommended and can be made up to one month in advance of the trip date. Tour departs from the Daniel Boone parking area.

This tour involves a 1.5-mile walk; 183 steps must be negotiated within the cave. For the safety of all, no children under the age of five are permitted on the cave tour. Wearing of beach/flip flop sandals, crocs or high heeled dress shoes in the cave is not allowed.

Adults - \$8.00
Seniors with Interagency Senior Pass -\$4.00
Visitors with Interagency Access Pass - \$4.00
Children twelve and under - \$4.00

April 17 - May 28

Weekdays at 10:00 a.m.
Weekends at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

May 29 - September 3

Daily at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

September 4 - December 3

Weekdays at 10:00 a.m.
Weekends at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

Hensley Settlement

Visit historic Hensley Settlement for a nostalgic look into early 20th century Appalachia. Meander down fence lined lanes, peek into the blacksmith's shop, look into the springhouse or sit in the one room school. In 1903, Sherman Hensley and Willie Gibbons joined forces to establish a homestead on the mountaintop. Using hand tools to split chestnut logs, the settlers began to build homes. A thriving community soon emerged. The land, suitable for raising livestock and growing crops for liquid spirits, supported the community of twelve farmsteads for more than forty years. **Reservations are recommended and can be made up to one month in advance of the trip date. Tour departs from the park visitor center.**

Visitors must be able to walk one mile through the settlement; comfortable clothing and walking shoes are a must. Bring a light snack and drink for the four-hour tour. Service animals only; no other pets allowed on shuttle.

Adults - \$10.00
Seniors with Interagency Senior Pass - \$5.00
Visitors with Interagency Access Pass - \$5.00
Children twelve and under - \$5.00

May 15 - October 31 (No shuttle offered August 13 - 14)

Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday
Depart 12:30 p.m.; return 4:30 p.m.

Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday
Depart 9:00 a.m.; return 1:00 p.m.



**First Thursday of Each Month
Cumberland Mountain Photography Club**

Join fellow photo enthusiasts for an evening of photography demonstrations, techniques, and tips designed to capture that perfect photo!

Photographers of all ability levels are welcome.

Visitor center at 6:30 p.m.



**June 16
Meet and Greet**

The area in the upstairs visitor center, occupied formerly by Cumberland Crafts, showcased incredible artistry inspired by creativity and a love for Appalachia. Now, the space is empty and forlorn. Come...share with Park Superintendent Sula Jacobs and park staff your ideas of how this room can again come to life. If you have suggestions and are not able to attend this informal gathering, just send an email to: CUGA_Superintendent@nps.gov.

Visitor center from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.



Once filled to the brim with beauty and color...

...now empty and colorless.



**June 18
Hike of the Month
Lewis Hollow, Ridge, Fort McCook, Wilderness Road, and Daniel Boone Trail Medley**

This 6.6 mile moderate to strenuous medley of trails includes a sinking stream, a view from the Poor Valley Overlook, remnants of the Civil War, and the opportunity to walk in the footsteps of Daniel Boone.

Lewis Hollow Trailhead at the Wilderness Road Campground picnic area at 9:00 a.m.

**June 30
Batspy in Gap Cave**

Yes, for several years, “big brother” has been spying on bats in Gap Cave. Paul Cryan, research biologist for the United States Geological Survey at the Fort Collins Science Center, will make public several video clips documenting bat behavior during hibernation and discuss the latest on white nose syndrome.

Visitor center auditorium at 2:00 p.m.



A cluster of bats captured by video on Valentine's Day, 2014.

**July 11
Meet the Commander**

Talk and visit with Confederate Colonel James Edward Rains, commander of the Cumberland Gap from November 1861 - May 1862. Hear about his politics, family, and tales of fighting East Tennessee Unionists, Kentucky guerillas, and surviving that frigid winter.

Visitor center at 10:00 a.m.

July 19

Whose Fault is It Anyway?

"Why is Appalachia home to such beautiful mountains?" "Will the big one hit here soon?" "Is every fault line the same?" "How does coal form?" These are all indeed burning questions and will be answered during this three mile trek. Walk through the Cumberland Gap into geologic time. Explore the stories written by massive earthquakes, forming mountains, an expansive ocean, and a meteor crashing into the earth.

Daniel Boone parking area at 10:00 a.m.

Be sure to bring your hiking boots and snacks!

July 23

Hike of the Month

Sugar Run

This five mile moderate to strenuous round trip hike to its intersection with the Ridge Trail is perfect for a hot July day. As we bask in the shade of the hemlocks and revel in the coolness of a lovely stream, we'll look for red spotted newts and box turtles.

Sugar Run picnic area at 9:00 a.m.



August 6

Hike of the Month

Object Lesson and Wilderness Road Trails

Short and sweet at 1.5 miles round trip and absolutely perfect for a sweltering summer day, but so packed with the rich history and beauty of the Cumberland Gap.

Thomas Walker parking area at 9:00 a.m.

August 13

Shooting Star Spectacular at Hensley Settlement

As darkness falls in the southern mountains, Hensley Settlement becomes the stage for a shooting star spectacular! Its remote location high upon Brush Mountain provides an incredible opportunity to view the night sky and the famous Perseid meteor shower.



The Shillalah Creek Road will be open to "up" traffic from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. The road will be open only to "down" traffic from 9:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Vehicles must be front - or four - wheel drive. Passengers are not allowed to ride in truckbeds. No ATVs are permitted. \$10.00 fee per vehicle must be paid beforehand at park visitor center.

August 20

Batty about Bats

Cumberland Gap's 30+ known caves are perfect habitat for numerous bat species. Learn how park staff uses anabat devices to detect and identify bat species by their echolocation calls and use night vision goggles to peer into the darkness to see these "insect eating machines." Exhibits and children's activities will help all grasp the roles bats play in the ecosystem and their importance to humans!

Bartlett Park picnic area at 7:00 p.m.





Saturday Night Campfires

June and July programs begin at 8:00 p.m.

August and September programs begin at 7:00 p.m.

Wilderness Road Campground amphitheater, located at the end of loop C where parking is available. In case of rain, program will be held in the park visitor center auditorium.

Please note August 13th Shooting Star Spectacular at Hensley Settlement and

August 20th Batty About Bats at Bartlett Park picnic area.

June 4

The War in Their Own Words

A historian in the making as he pursues his Ph.D., Park Ranger Lucas Wilder will mesmerize as he shares the stories of the Cumberland Gap during the Civil War through the letters and uniforms of the soldiers who experienced it.

June 11

Tracing the Migration of Songs Between Scotland and Ireland to North America

As Scots and Ulster Scots emigrated to America, they carried with them a rich oral tradition of song and ballad singing. Join musicians Sara Grey and son Kieron Means as they trace the migration of these songs and share the impacts which they had on Appalachian music. This renowned mother and son team will expect you to enthusiastically chime in on choruses and refrains.

June 18

Women on the Frontier

Women on the frontier did it all - cooking over the fire, sewing, planting of and harvesting flax to spin, weaving and making clothes for the family, growing the garden crops to feed them, doctoring with herbs, and all the while, adding babies to the brood and loving them in earnest. Park Ranger Pam Eddy, a “superwoman” herself in the pioneer re-enactment circuit, celebrates these “superwomen.”

June 25

Our Batty Cousins

Bats are some of the most uniquely adapted critters in our animal kingdom and live in almost as many places as humans! Join American Conservation Experience intern Victoria Coraci and from the comfort of the campground amphitheater, venture the world. Victoria exclaims, “We’ll be visiting a few of the most extraordinary winged mammals that help keep our world in balance.”



July 2

Break It Down

Park Rangers Jarrod Dotson and Keith Bowling have been guiding visitors through Gap Cave for what seems like eons of geologic time. During this one-hour primer, the duo explains one of the most misunderstood places on our planet. Find out why the tri-state area is ground zero for karst topography.

July 9

A Journey of 1,165.8 Miles on Foot

Find out what it's like to hike the Appalachian Trail (AT). Hear stories, see pictures, and ask questions from 'babygirl' (a.k.a. American Conservation Experience intern Alyssa Dugas) who in 2015 hiked the AT north from Harper's Ferry, West Virginia to Mt. Katahdin in Maine. She'll share how she was baptized with her trail nickname.

July 16

A History of the Cumberland Gap

For the second time this summer, Park Ranger Lucas Wilder lights the campfire and this evening takes us on an incredible timeline journey as he illuminates the Gap's history and significance from Native Americans to Civil War soldiers to the establishment of the National Park.

July 23

Mysteries of the Chadwell Gap

Ever hiked the Chadwell Gap Trail to Hensley Settlement and wonder what some of those ruins are along the way? Join University of Virginia at Wise intern Chris Fritze as he tells the fascinating story behind the Chadwell Gap Coal Company historic district in the Virginia part of the park, and how it ties into the Hensley story.

July 30

The Maskless Bandit

Perhaps no other animal has so excited the human imagination, including that of Park Ranger Jarrod Dotson, as the "maskless bandit" or black bear. During this "one stop bear fact shopping" program, learn how we all can prevent the bear from becoming a human food bandit, how we can all live together, and how we can enjoy this symbol of the southern Appalachian forest.

August 6

If I Had a Hammer, What Could I Do?

Last year, Park Rangers Sharon Griffin and Brittony Beason took us back into time through a pioneer wedding portrayal. Get ready to again stroll back into time as the two acquaint us with the history of many Appalachian tools and how they were and continue to be used.

August 27

National Park Service Centennial Celebration

Though new this year to Cumberland Gap, Park Ranger Wendi Chatfield is anything but a greenhorn to HER and YOUR national parks. In this 100th anniversary of the National Park Service, Wendi comes to us with Rocky Mountain and Yosemite National Park experiences. During the past two years, "Find Your Park" for Wendi has meant running seven half marathons at various national park units. And what's really cool - Wendi's birthday is August 25th - the same as the National Park Service. It was meant to be for her to be a ranger!

September 3

America the Beautiful

Park volunteer and nationally renowned photographer Harold Jerrell takes us on an exquisite pictorial journey through "America the Beautiful." In May, Harold's stunning photo of fog flowing through the Cumberland Gap graced the opening of an ABC News social media program on national parks: <http://abcnews.go.com/Travel/photos/glory-spring-americas-national-parks-30006656>



Additional programs may be added during the summer.

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www.nps.gov/cuga

Programs sponsored by the National Park Service, Eastern National,
and Friends of Cumberland Gap National Historical Park.

www.easternnational.org
www.friendsofcumberlandgap.org

